



Buck-I-SERV: Ghana

The Akumanyi Foundation

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Project Description:

Buck-I-Serv, in collaboration with the Akumanyi Foundation, sponsors a 10-day service trip to Akokwa, Ghana to provide support at the The Engyankwa Wo Enyiadad (Hope for orphans) Children's Home. The home aims to aid orphaned and vulnerable youth from impoverished communities. Most days will be spent with the children, getting them through the day.



Motivation in Selecting this Project:

This project was first brought to my attention by my STEP advisor. She just happened to be the main advisor for the Buck-I-Serv to Ghana. Aside from truly enjoying helping others, being able to experience another culture, especially a culture as rich and raw as Ghana's, has always been something I've wanted to do.



What was Transformational about my project?

Seeing how strong these kids were despite the things that they have been through shows me I have the capability to go as far as I want to go in life. Nothing can stop me but myself. This experience taught me that culture and tradition comes in many different shapes and sizes. We were not on this trip to fix anything but to simply offer support to the people working to make a difference within their communities. I have also developed a love for children through interacting with the most resilient, kindhearted, hardworking children I have ever met.



Impact on Academic, Personal, and Life Goals Moving Forward:

Academically, I have been working to perform the best I can and get the best grades I can from now on. I want to work on finding what truly excited me so I can map out my career path. This experience has made me want to live the happiest life I can, and I do not think I'll be able to do that if I don't learn to appreciate the things that make me who I am.

My Favorite Part:

The kids. They were so joyful and carefree the whole time we were there. We never heard them complain once about not having something or having to do work around the home.

If Someone Else Wants to do a Similar Project, Who Should They Contact?

I would suggest taking action to not only look at the Buck-I-Serv trips that cater to your personal service interests, but to look outside of OSU's services for foundations and organizations dedicated to an amazing cause. Although I did go to Ghana through Buck-I-Serv, the Akumanyi Foundation were the ones making a difference. I would also reach out to peers who are working to make a difference. Connections mean a lot.



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